

## **CHAPTER 2**

# **EDUCATION**

### **A. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

A parent or guardian of any child who is at least seven years old at the beginning of the school year, but not yet 16, is required by Idaho law to have that child instructed in subjects commonly and usually taught in the public schools of the State of Idaho. Idaho Code 33-202 requires a child be instructed in a public, private or parochial school, unless the child is comparably instructed. Kindergarten, however, is an option that school districts may elect to provide.

The law requires that a child be five years old by September 1st of the school year to enter kindergarten or six by September 1st to enter first grade. If a child has attended an out-of-state kindergarten for 450 hours, the child is allowed to enter first grade even if the child is not six years old by September 1st. The school age of resident exceptional/disabled children is three.

#### **1. MINIMUM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

To enroll your child in school, all school districts require the child to be immunized. Minimum immunization requirements for Idaho are four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine (DPT), three doses of polio vaccine and one dose of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). By law, official immunization records must be presented in order to enroll your child in school. Keep these records in a safe place. Unless these official records can be provided your child will have to go through the whole series of shots again before being admitted, costing time, money and distress to the child. Exemptions from this immunization requirement may be obtained from your physician or from the District Health Department.

The board of trustees of each school is required by law to exclude from school pupils who are diagnosed or suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, or who are not immune and have been exposed to a contagious or infectious disease.

#### **2. DUAL ENROLLMENT**

The Idaho Code requires that the parent or guardian of a school-age child who is enrolled in a nonpublic school be allowed to enroll that student in public school for “dual enrollment” purposes. This allows the student who participates in dual enrollment to also participate in public school activities and/or academic programs that may otherwise be unavailable.

### **B. EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq. guarantees that children with disabilities which affect their education or ability to attend school are entitled to special education and related services, including special transportation, physical, occupational and speech therapy, or other supportive services necessary for the child to benefit from the educational program.

Similar services must be provided to children from birth to five years old. The programs must be individually designed with parental participation and consent and included in a written plan tailored to the child’s unique needs. If parents disagree with the program offered by the school, they may request a hearing before an impartial hearing officer to resolve disagreements. Parents may be entitled to recover attorneys’ fees and costs from the school district. Children not covered under the IDEA, such as children with attention deficit disorder, may still be eligible for supplemental services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Information on education for children with disabilities is available from CO-AD, Inc., 4477 Emerald Street, Suite B-100, Boise, Idaho 83706, phone (208) 336-5353, or toll-free 1-800-632-5125 (V/TDD).

Specialized career education and other assistance in obtaining or returning to work is available for persons with disabilities who have a substantial impediment to employment but who could be employed with proper vocational rehabilitation services. For information on vocational services for persons with disabilities contact Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, at (208) 327-7411, or (208) 327-7040 (TDD).

### **C. TITLE IX - DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 reads “no person shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” This Act, passed by Congress in 1972, forbids discrimination based on sex and applies to school systems, including vocational and higher education institutions. With rare exceptions, discrimination based on sex is prohibited in recruitment, admission, educational programs and activities, counseling and aptitude testing and financial and employment assistance. Discrimination is also prohibited

with regard to marital or parental status. Title IX regulations call for the equitable treatment of both sexes in physical education facilities, athletics and sports.

Discrimination based on sex or on marital or parental status is also prohibited in school employment, pay, employee benefits, help wanted advertising and preemployment inquiries under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Idaho Code 67-5901 was enacted by the Idaho Legislature in 1969. (See Chapter 1, Protection from Discrimination).

The Idaho Human Rights Commission was established by law as the agency that receives complaints, conducts investigations and hearings for violation of Idaho Code 67-5901. Complaints based on sex discrimination in education may be forwarded to a number of agencies, including the Idaho Human Rights Commission, 1109 Main St., Owyhee Plaza, Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83720-0040, (208) 334-2873, FAX (208) 334-2664. You may also file a discrimination complaint with school authorities, a local school board, an attorney, or the Office for Civil Rights, Region 10, Seattle, WA 98101.

#### **D. CENTERS FOR NEW DIRECTIONS**

The Centers for New Directions offer free services to single parents and displaced homemakers. These services include personal, career and educational counseling, preparation for employment and education, life skill development, job-seeking and job-keeping classes and other supportive services. The Centers also have a limited number of financial stipends for participants wishing to enter a nontraditional vocational education program.

The Centers for New Directions are located regionally on the campuses of six Idaho colleges. For more information, contact the center nearest to you:

#### **IDAHO CENTERS FOR NEW DIRECTIONS**

Center for New Directions  
North Idaho College  
1000 West Garden  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
208/769-3445 - FAX: 208/769-3367

Center for New Directions  
Lewis Clark State College  
500 8th Avenue  
Lewiston, ID 83501  
208/792-2331 or 1/800/879-0454

Center for New Directions  
Boise State University  
1910 University Drive  
Boise, ID 83725  
208/426-4026

Center for New Directions  
College of Southern Idaho  
315 Falls Avenue  
P.O. Box 1238  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
208/733-9554, Ext. 2680 or 1/800/680-0274, Ext. 2680

Center for New Directions  
Idaho State University  
Bessie Katsilometes, Director  
Campus Box 8380  
Pocatello, ID 83209  
208/282-2454

Center for New Directions  
Eastern Idaho Technical College  
1600 South 2500 East  
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

208/524-3000, Ext. 3318 or 1/800/662-0261

State Division of Vocational Education  
Idaho Division of Professional and  
Technical Education  
650 West State Street  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0095  
208/334-3216  
Coordinator: Shirley Silver

## **E. HIGHER EDUCATION IN IDAHO**

The State of Idaho provides its students with a comprehensive post secondary education system of public and private institutions offering both academic and vocational courses of study. This system offers a wide range of opportunity whatever the students' interests and skills.

Each of the public institutions listed below has special programs for women, recognizing that women sometimes have unique needs and interests. Some of those programs include women's studies programs, women's centers for students and Centers for New Directions, a program for divorced or widowed women or women with other special needs. Each of the public institutions also has special programs for individuals entering higher education at an older age than other students.

The public institutions of higher education in Idaho are: University of Idaho, Moscow; Lewis -Clark State College, Lewiston; Boise State University, Boise; and Idaho State University, Pocatello. Idaho also has two, 2-year community colleges: North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene and College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.